

returned from battle to once again serve our communities. While our Nation's veterans may stop wearing the uniform of the Armed Forces, these brave men and women never stop serving. And, it's comforting to know that the American Legion is dedicated to providing support and stability to these veterans.

The Leon Ogier Post No. 2 has become a fixture of the Nevada community. From the annual kids Christmas program, a tradition that dates back to 1922, to the meal delivery program during the holidays, this post has set a high standard of service. The fabric of the community is strong due in no small part to the Leon Ogier Post No. 2.

Madam Speaker, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the construction of Memorial Hall, let us all take a moment to thank our veterans and the organizations that support them. As we celebrate this important milestone, I trust my fellow members of the House will join me in wishing the American Legion Leon Ogier Post No. 2 the very best in the next 100 years.

CHINA'S UTTER DISREGARD FOR BASIC HUMAN RIGHTS

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, I submit an AFP article detailing a tragic story which illustrates the Chinese government's callousness and utter disregard for basic human rights.

AFP reports that China repatriated an 81-year old former South Korean prisoner of war who fled North Korea literally decades after first being captured.

China regularly repatriates North Korean refugees, in violation of their international obligations oftentimes sending these individuals back to certain punishment and possible death. The Chinese government simply doesn't care.

CHINA SENDS S. KOREAN POW BACK TO N. KOREA

SEOUL.—China has repatriated an 81-year-old former South Korean prisoner of war who had fled North Korea decades after being captured, a newspaper report and an activist said Tuesday.

Dong-A Ilbo quoted an unidentified government official as saying the man surnamed Jung was sent back despite intensive diplomatic efforts by Seoul to bring him to the South.

A foreign ministry spokeswoman said she had no information.

"The government made tremendous diplomatic efforts but he was eventually sent back to the North," the source was quoted as saying.

South Korea had contacted Chinese diplomatic authorities more than 50 times since Jung's arrest, the daily said.

Choi Sung-Yong, an activist who campaigns for the return of South Korean abductees, said Jung was forcibly returned to the North in September last year, about a month after being arrested in China where he was hiding.

He said Jung was arrested eight days after he fled the North with the help of South Korean activists.

China repatriates escapees from North Korea as illegal immigrants even though they can face harsh punishment back home.

By Seoul's official account 494 South Koreans, mostly fishermen, were seized in the Cold War decades following the war. Seoul also says more than 500 prisoners of war were never sent home after the Korean War armistice was signed on July 27, 1953.

North Korea denies holding any south-erners against their will, even though some have managed to escape from the hunger-stricken country.

SECURING AIRCRAFT COCKPITS AGAINST LASERS ACT OF 2010

SPEECH OF

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, July 27, 2010

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H.R. 5810, which amends title 18 of the United States Code to provide penalties for aiming laser pointers at airplanes. The effect of laser pointer glare on the windows of airplane cockpits is extremely dangerous to pilots. Laser glare that incapacitates pilots can endanger all other people onboard the aircraft. In order to prevent unnecessary harm to pilots, airplane passengers, and other airline employees, deliberate aiming of laser pointers at airplanes must be regulated.

Pilots experience laser glare in cockpits at a rate that has steadily increased over the past fifteen years. In 2009 alone, 1600 individual laser-aircraft incidents occurred. The intensity with which laser light reflects off cockpit glass can result in varying degrees of danger for pilots, from simple distraction by the bright flash of laser light to temporary flash blindness that greatly reduces their ability to capably navigate the aircraft. If the laser light is aimed from a near enough distance, pilots can sustain permanent eye damage from the brightness of the laser light. In some cases, pilots have even taken evasive action, confusing the laser light for the dot-type laser reticle of a weapon.

Eleven states have already enacted laws regulating the use of laser pointers around aircraft. While the use and ownership of small laser pointers is legal, this legislation is vital to preventing laser pointer users from accidentally harming or incapacitating pilots. I support this bill, in the hope that it will help Americans to be more careful in their use of laser pointers, and realize the grave consequences their actions can have for our Nation's pilots and aircraft passengers.

I urge my colleagues to also support this important resolution.

INTRODUCTION OF THE IMPROVING ACCESS TO MEDICARE COVERAGE ACT

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, today on the eve of Medicare's 45th anniversary, I rise to recognize the tireless work and fierce vigilance of an organization that has prioritized the care needs of Medicare beneficiaries, the

Center for Medicare Advocacy, as well as bring to light a coverage issue that the agency has been worked on for years: lengthy hospital observation stays.

Earlier this summer, I had discussions with leaders of the Center for Medicare Advocacy about lengthy hospital observation stays which has inhibited care for Medicare beneficiaries. Excessive time on hospital observation status has been shown to create two potential problems for Medicare beneficiaries. First, prescription drugs administered in the hospital during an observation stay are not included in the inpatient deductible cap, which can easily become unaffordable for patients and their families if the medications are not included in the beneficiary's Part D formulary. Secondly, time spent on observation status in a hospital is not counted towards the three-day inpatient hospital stay required for the beneficiary to receive skilled nursing care. Both potential consequences create financial and care burdens for Medicare beneficiaries.

Earlier in the month, I met with the Renshaw family from my district that had been negatively affected by a lengthy hospital observation status. After falling and breaking his hip, Mr. Renshaw, an elderly Medicare beneficiary, was taken to a local hospital treatment where he was subsequently put on observation status. He remained in the hospital for four days. After he was released, Mr. Renshaw required skilled nursing care for his rehabilitation. However, because Mr. Renshaw was placed on observation status instead of admitted officially as an inpatient, his time in the hospital did not count towards the Medicare three-day hospital stay required for skilled nursing care. His family was forced to write a check for nearly \$10,000 in order to get him the care that he needed because Medicare would not cover this benefit.

In response to the Center for Medicare Advocacy's vigilance on this issue and the experiences shared with me by the Renshaw family, I am introducing the Improving Access to Medicare Coverage Act. My legislation will fix this unfair component of Medicare law that arbitrarily differentiates between patients on inpatient versus observation status with obtaining necessary skilled care. The Improving Access to Medicare Coverage Act will count a beneficiary's time on observation towards the three-day hospital stay requirement for skilled nursing care. And while my legislation does not address the challenges associated with unaffordable out-of-pocket prescription drug and other costs associated with lengthy hospital observation stays, I look forward to working with the Center for Medicare Advocacy on finding a long-term solution to this urgent problem.

HONORING KATHLEEN SCHUERMANN

HON. STEVE DRIEHAUS

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 29, 2010

Mr. DRIEHAUS. Madam Speaker, today I want to recognize the 100th birthday of someone who is not only a constituent of mine, but a woman very dear to my heart, my great aunt, Kathleen Schuermann.

Our family will soon gather to mark this occasion, and there's so much to celebrate.